

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS.**

Claims 1-6, 8 and 16-23 are currently pending in this application. Claims 7 and 9-15 have been withdrawn from consideration. Independent claim 1 has been amended in this response. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment can be found in paragraphs 0046, 0057 and 0058, and Figs. 3-6 of the Application as originally filed.

It is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art cited in the Office Action, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendment of the claims, as presented herein, are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these amendments and additions are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

**II. THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§102 & 103 HAVE BEEN OVERCOME**

Claims 1-6, 8 and 16-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,368,933 to Wicker (hereinafter, merely “Wicker”).

Currently amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...a liquid polymeric resin coating applied and cured on said outside surface of said base structure, wherein said polymeric resin coating forms a distinct layer on said outside surface of said base structure; and a plurality of grooves formed in said polymeric resin coating ...”

(Emphasis added)

Wicker teaches the use of a sheet 136 of Mylar polyester film to form a belt 137. The assembled structure is held in place by a suitable adhesive 138. *Wicker*, col. 10, lines 27-35. On the contrary, the instant invention does not use any additional adhesive to apply the coating on the outer surface of the substrate. The coating, as instant claim 1 recites, is a liquid polymeric resin coating applied and cured on the outside surface of the base structure, wherein the polymeric resin coating forms a distinct layer on the outside surface of the base structure and the plurality of grooves are formed in this polymeric resin coating.

Wicker fails to teach or suggest the above identified feature of claim 1. Specifically, Wicker does not disclose or suggest a single facer corrugator belt comprising a liquid polymeric resin coating applied and cured on the outside surface of the base structure, wherein the polymeric resin coating forms a distinct layer on the outside surface of the base structure, and a plurality of grooves formed in the polymeric resin coating, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore Applicants respectfully submit that Wicker does not teach all the elements of the instant invention. Applicants thus submit that claim 1 is patentable over the relied upon portions of Wicker, and therefore should be allowed.

Claims 1-6, 8 and 16-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,857,605 to Welch et al. (hereinafter, merely “Welch”) in view of Wicker.

As understood by the Applicants, Welch teaches the use of fabric “plies 119-121”, “a lower rubber cover 122” and “an upper rubber cover 123” applied on top of these plies. Welch, in particular, teaches that the low friction strips are glued in the regions cut away leaving therebetween the high friction rubber strips. The adhesive attachment of the low friction strips to the underside of the belt is particularly completed in a vulcanizing press. *Welch*, col. 5, lines 45-

55. Therefore, quite contrary to what is recited in claim 1, Welch teaches attaching the rubber covering with an adhesive.

Welch, therefore, fails to teach or suggest the deficiencies in Wicker. Specifically, Welch does not disclose or suggest a liquid polymeric resin coating applied and cured on the outside surface of the base structure, wherein the polymeric resin coating forms a distinct layer on the outside surface of the base structure, and a plurality of grooves formed in the polymeric resin coating, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Welch and Wicker as a matter of fact fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over the relied upon portions of Welch and Wicker, considered either alone or in combination.

Claims 1-6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,470,944 to Billings et al. (hereinafter, merely “Billings”) in view of U.S. U.S. Patent No. 6,428,874 to McGahern et al. (hereinafter, merely “McGahern”) and further in view of US 2002/0102894 to Hansen (hereinafter, merely “Hansen”).

Billings teaches complete impregnation of the base structure and staple fiber material with a polymeric resin material. Billings, specifically teaches that the integrity and durability of the single-facer belt are improved by coating and impregnating the base structure with a polymeric resin material. *Billings*, col. 4, lines 42-50.

McGahern on the other hand teaches a resin-impregnated endless belt for a long nip press of the shoe type has a base structure impregnated by a polymeric resin material which renders the belt impermeable to fluids, such as oil, water and air (Abstract). Quite contrary to Billings and McGahern, instant claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that the polymeric resin coating forms a distinct

layer on the outside surface of the base structure, which none of the cited references teach or suggest.

Therefore, Applicants submit that none of Billings, Hansen and McGahern, considered either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest this distinguishing feature of claim 1.

Specifically, none of them teach or suggest the polymeric resin coating forming a distinct layer on the outside surface of the base structure, as recited in the instant claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection and submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over the relied upon portions of Billings, Hansen and McGahern.

### **III. OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION**

Claims 1-6 and 8 were rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claim 1-19 of Billings in view of McGahern and further in view of Hansen.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

### **IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS**

The other claims are dependent from independent claim 1, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

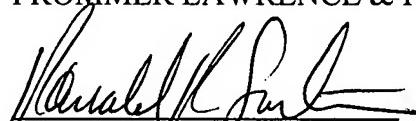
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,  
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

  
Ronald R. Santucci  
Reg. No. 28,988  
(212) 588-0800